



STATES UNITED TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

Youth participants in NYAGV Education Fund's Youth Education Program advocate for peace in 2013.

## IMAGINE PEACE:

### ACTIVISTS CALL FOR AN END TO GUN VIOLENCE

By LILY KUZMINSKI, age 11



In March 2015, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV) participated in a creative approach to change people's perceptions about guns. Along with States United to Prevent Gun Violence, an organization of 30 gun violence prevention groups, they created a fake store called The Gun Shop in Manhattan's Lower East Side. At The Gun Shop, people who were interested in making their first gun purchase were encouraged to come in and attempt to buy a weapon. Inside the store, customers were shown replica guns and told a tragic history behind each weapon, as though the firearms had been used in real killings. The stories were meant to inspire second thoughts about owning a gun.

Gun violence is an issue that continues to rock the United States. On average, approximately 33,000 people die and 70,000 are wounded by guns every year. Many activists and organizations are working to reduce gun violence by educating the public and advocating for stricter **gun control** laws.

The victims of gun violence are often young. According to the Center for American Progress, young people are the number one group impacted by gun violence. Firearms kill seven people under the age of 20 every day, and as of 2014, more people under the age of 26 die from gun violence than from car accidents, reports *Forbes*. According to the National Institute of Justice, gun violence impacts people between the ages of 15 and 24 more than any other type of violence.

Nardyne Jeffries has personally experienced the devastating impact of gun violence. In 2010, her 16-year-old daughter, Brishell, was killed in a drive-by shooting in Washington, DC. Similar to the

fake gun store, Jeffries takes a daring approach to anti-gun violence advocacy: she publicly displays graphic photos of her dead daughter at press conferences, city council meetings and marches, to sway public opinion about guns by showing the gruesome reality of gun violence. "Honestly, I do not think my tactics or NYAGV is unorthodox at all," she told *IndyKids*. "I do believe showing the reality of what a human body looks like after being shot may help some. I feel I am a part of a good change and solution to a very deadly problem." With hopes to inspire gun owners to be more responsible, Jeffries is committed to "whatever it takes to make a strong and necessary impact," she said.

Such anti-gun violence activism does indeed make an impact. On January 5, 2016, President Obama announced executive orders to introduce stricter gun control laws. His proposed actions would require mandatory background checks for purchasing firearms at gun shows or online, hire 200 new federal agents to maintain gun laws and allocate \$500 million to increase access to mental health care.

The Gun Shop was NYAGV's unique attempt to illustrate the devastating effects of gun violence. In one case, a gun displayed at the store was revealed to be at the center of an accidental death, when a five-year-old found the weapon and unintentionally killed his nine-month-old little brother.

"Our goal was to grab people's attention," NYAGV Executive Director Leah Gunn Barrett told the *Washington Post*. While 60 percent of Americans believe having a gun makes you safer, statistics show that owning a weapon actually increases the risk of homicide, suicide and unintentional death. "It is one of our rights, but my opinion has definitely changed," said one of The Gun Shop's customers. "I don't feel safe with a gun."

**Gun control:** Laws or policies that determine who can make, sell, own or use guns.



PETER STEVES/FLICKR

This New York City gun shop isn't what you might expect.



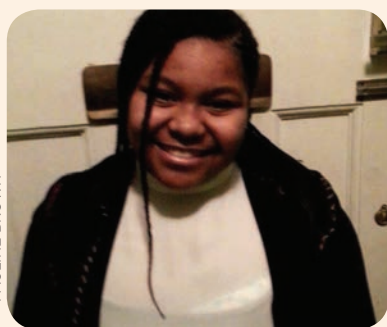
STATES UNITED TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE



NARDYNE JEFFRIES

Nardyne Jeffries poses with her daughter Brishell.





## Meet... Neave from the United Kingdom

**Name:** Neave Sian Brown

**Age:** 12

**Lives in:** London, England

**Hobbies:** Arts and crafts, baking and singing

**Favorite Food:** Fish and chips

**Favorite School Subject:** Drama

**What She Wants to Do When She Grows Up:** Be a veterinarian, a midwife or work at London Zoo. I also wouldn't mind being a famous singer!

**Siblings:** One 19-year-old brother

**Favorite Festival or Holiday:** Christmas



## The UK at a Glance

**Name of Country:** United Kingdom

**Religions:** Christian (includes Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist) 59.5 percent, none 25.7 percent, unspecified 7.2 percent, Muslim 4.4 percent, other 2 percent and Hindu 1.3 percent.

**Languages:** English (with British, Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish accents)

### Fun Facts:

- The United Kingdom is made up of Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England.
- The Chunnel is an underground railroad that goes underneath land and water from London to Paris.
- The prime meridian runs through England in Greenwich. This means that time officially begins in Greenwich, close to London.

By **ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY**, age 12



# 3.7 million

The number of people expected to qualify under DAPA for rights to Social Security benefits, a driver's license, work permits and protection from deportation. Source: The Washington Post

# nation&world

## New Immigration Policy Could Provide Vital Social Services



FIBONACCI BLUE

Young protesters call for an end to raids and deportations at a 2012 rally in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

By **MARISA HIRSCHFIELD**, age 11



**M**any undocumented immigrants—people from another country who reside in the United States without the required paperwork—fear **deportation**. However, in 2014, President Obama proposed a policy called Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). DAPA gives undocumented

immigrants whose children are American citizens access to Social Security benefits, protection from deportation and work permits for three years. A federal appeals court ruled DAPA unlawful, but Obama appealed, with immense support and pressure from grassroots activists. Now, DAPA is

going to the Supreme Court.

DAPA could help 3.7 million people; it would allow undocumented immigrants to travel outside of the United States and, in some states, have access to a driver's license. In support of DAPA, Hillary Clinton stated, "The millions who are affected can stop living in fear of their families being broken apart." This comes as federal immigration agents ramp up

raids targeting Central American families. In the first week of 2016, at least 121 refugees, including mostly mothers and children, were detained.

Opponents argue that DAPA is unconstitutional because it exceeds Obama's power, and that providing Social Security and driver's licenses could cost state governments. Although that is possible, states would actually benefit from increased tax revenue, which could outweigh costs.

Teresa Gutierrez, a Mexican undocumented immigrant, shared with *AM New York*, "We aren't just suddenly showing up now, we have a life here. This would let me be me, and stop living in the shadows." DAPA could give people like Teresa and millions of others a chance to build a life in the United States.

**Deportation:** The act of removing a person from a country.

## Obama Talks Testing

By **SOPHIA ROTHMAN**, age 12, and **IndyKids staff**



**O**n December 10, 2015, President Obama released a new education policy called the Every Student Succeeds Act. The act allows each state to set their own measurements for success, instead of requiring states to use standardized testing to assess students, teachers and schools.

A few months prior, the Obama administration had released new testing guidelines for K-12 schools and school districts in the United States. The Testing Action Plan proposed that the amount of classroom time spent taking tests be reduced from 2.3 percent, totaling about 20-25 hours of classroom time per year, down to two percent. The change is slight, and does not reduce time spent preparing for tests.

Although these proposed changes will not eliminate testing altogether, in Obama's announcement of the Testing Action Plan, he agreed that

students spend too much time taking tests. The Council of the Great City Schools, a group that addresses issues in large, urban public schools, found that between pre-K and grade 12, students take approximately 112 tests, averaging eight per year. In response to overtesting, many students across the country have decided to "opt out" of these tests. Fair Test, an opt-out movement advocacy group, announced that more than 500,000 students across the country opted out of state tests in 2015. Some parents feel that these tests are not helping to measure their children's knowledge.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

In December 2015, President Obama signed into place the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Julia Rubin, a parent and one of the founders of Save Our Schools New Jersey, feels that standardized testing does not help students and is a sign of growing inequalities. She told PBS Newshour, "What the test primarily measures is the wealth of their families and the background education of their families."

## indykids!

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### WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. IndyKids is funded through donations and grants.

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### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact *IndyKids*! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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IndyKids, P.O. Box 2281, New York, NY 10163.  
or donate online at [www.IndyKids.org](http://www.IndyKids.org)



## Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a) Hawaii, USA ____    | e) Pakistan ____               |
| b) Indonesia ____      | f) Chicago, Illinois, USA ____ |
| c) New York, USA ____  | g) Paris, France ____          |
| d) United Kingdom ____ | h) Germany ____                |



## Student Activists Fight Campus Racism

By TESS MCGARVEY, age 10

**A**cross North America, college students are protesting racism on campuses. A group called We the Protesters has compiled a list of more than 51 schools that are organizing protests demanding sensitivity training, more diversity for professors, the creation of cultural centers and more.

At the University of Missouri, known as Mizzou, students endured racial slurs and even a swastika smeared on a bathroom wall. After weeks of protests and a week-long hunger strike by student Jonathan Butler, the entire football team threatened to quit, which would have resulted in a \$1 million fine. The school's president, Tim Wolfe, resigned within two days.

At Ithaca College in New York state, students are pushing for the removal of President Tom Rochon. He failed to respond after an African-American alumna, Tatiana Sy, was

repeatedly called a "savage" by fellow alumni, including Bob Kur from NBC News.

Students at the University of Mississippi voted to remove the state flag, which includes the battle emblem for the Confederacy, from the campus. For many, the flag represents a history of racism in the South. In response to protests, the university took down the flag.

A common misconception is that these protests came out of nowhere, says University of Missouri senior Alanna Diggs.

"It was not an overdramatic reaction by a couple of angry black students, but a moment built up over time," she told the *Huffington Post*. "The movement is not over. This is the beginning."

A University of Guelph (Ontario, Canada) student prepares to protest in solidarity with black student activists at Mizzou.



SONALPATRICIA/FICKR



THOMAS HAWK

## Chicago Police Department Under Investigation

By KAYLA MACK, age 11

On October 20, 2014, Laquan McDonald, an African-American teenager, was shot 16 times by Chicago Police Officer Jason Van Dyke. At first, the officers claimed that McDonald had lunged at Van Dyke with a knife. More than a year later, police dash-cam video footage from this incident was finally released to the media, showing Van Dyke shooting McDonald even though the teenager posed no threat and was actually walking away from the officers when he was shot. The video led to widespread protests, a civil rights investigation by the U.S. Justice Department and a formal first-degree murder charge against Van Dyke.



CIFOR

## Fires in Indonesia Bring Toxic Smoke to Southeast Asia

By AMZAD ALI, age 12

Raging fires have been erupting in Indonesia since June 2015. These fires are started by farmers and big corporations to clear land in order to plant crops for trade. This practice is called slash-and-burn. Smog floats up as the fires burn, making the air toxic for animals and humans. Because of this, animals are forced to flee their homes, and schools are forced to close to protect children from the smog. The haze is impacting the entire region, including Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines.

## Native Hawaiians Organize for Self-Governance

By NYLU BERNSTAYN, age 10

**I**n November 2015, Native Hawaiians voted to form an independent government that represents the indigenous people of Hawai'i. Those in favor of the election say it would offer Native Hawaiians a voice in their own government.

The winning 40 delegates were to be announced on December 1, but on December 2, the U.S. Supreme Court halted the vote count. On December 15, Native organizers canceled the election altogether, restarting the process by offering all 196 former candidates the opportunity to join together on a council to determine next steps.

Originally, the elected delegates were to start the process of writing a constitution. While other U.S. indigenous groups have forms of self-government, Native Hawaiians are currently the only U.S. Native group that does not.

In 1893, indigenous Hawaiian leader Queen Liliuokalani was forced by U.S. businessmen to give up her land or face U.S. military violence. Sixty-six years later, in 1959, after the U.S. government took over, Hawai'i became the 50th state in the country.

Some Hawaiians criticized the election, claiming it was discriminatory. In fact, it was a group made up of Native Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians that had initially both challenged it, arguing it would exclude non-Native Hawaiians from voting.



OCCUPY HILO/FICKR

With self-governance could come the power to protect sacred lands for Native Hawaiians, such as these activists at the Thirty Meter Telescope protest on Mauna Kea, October 7, 2014.

Kelii Akina, a Hawaiian who has spoken out against the election, said that the Supreme Court decision "halting a Hawai'i state-sponsored, race-based election is a victory for the Constitution and the Aloha Spirit." But the election was not sponsored by the state; it was organized by a nonprofit called Na'i Aupuni, one of many groups pushing for **sovereignty** for Native Hawaiians.

Although the votes collected will never be counted, the struggle for independence is far from over. Many, like Hazel Twelker, who grew up on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, support the process. "People of [Native] Hawaiian ancestry should decide whether they want to be self-governing or not," Twelker told *IndyKids*.

**Sovereignty:** The power of a community to govern itself.



Call for Higher Wages



By AMZAD ALI, age 12

In November 2015, the state of New York became the first to declare a \$15 minimum wage for all state employees.

As of January 1, 2016, New York’s minimum wage for people who do not work for the state, is \$9.00 an hour. For such minimum wage workers with children, it is nearly impossible to support a family with one job, some economists say. According to Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Amy Glasmeier, to support a family of four, two adults would have to work two full-time jobs each to survive on minimum wage.

In Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles, a \$15-an-hour minimum wage is slowly being phased in, following years of pressure from workers and activists. In New York, Fight for \$15, an organization led by fast food workers, has spearheaded a movement to demand higher wages since November 2012.

“We are fighting for \$15 an hour in order to survive in this city that is very expensive,” salon worker Berta Chacon told the *Huffington Post* recently at a protest in New York City. Chacon was one of many low-wage workers protesting across the nation on November 10, the same day that the *New York Times* reported that Governor Cuomo will raise state employees’ minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

“If you work full-time,” said Governor Cuomo, “you shouldn’t have to choose between paying the rent and buying food.”

Minimum Wage Has Not Kept Up With Inflation



By CHARLES A. RAMOS BRUGUERAS, age 11

The minimum wage is the lowest amount an employee can earn, by law. It was created in 1938, at the end of the Great Depression, to restore better business practices in the United States.

Though it has risen over the last 78 years, the minimum wage has not kept pace with the rising cost of living, known as inflation. If it had, it would be nearly \$18.50, according to a 2015 analysis by the Economic Policy Institute.

The federal hourly minimum wage is \$7.25, but states are free to set their own rates. Five states have no minimum wage law, while Georgia and Wyoming have a minimum wage lower than the federal rate.

Opponents say small businesses won’t be able to hire as many people with a higher minimum wage, and that raising the minimum wage would make prices higher.

Advocates say a wage hike is necessary because some full-time workers earning minimum wage don’t make a **living wage**, and a higher minimum wage would improve income equality.



WAYNE S. GRAZIO

The federal minimum wage for people who work for tips, such as restaurant servers, has been \$2.13 since 1991.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE!



WISCONSIN JOBS NOW



Glossary of Terms

**Gratuity:** A tip given to a server or other worker in addition to the cost of the service.

**Inequity:** Unfair behavior or policy.

**Living Wage:** A wage that is high enough for a worker to meet their basic needs.

**Overtime:** Employees are entitled to earn extra pay for time worked over 40 hours in one week.

Activists of all ages exercise their power to demand living wages at a rally in Washington, D.C.

If minimum wage had risen at the same rate as the cost of living for the past 78 years, it would be nearly \$18.50.

On April 15, 2015, fast food workers nationwide held protests demanding a \$15-an-hour minimum wage, earned sick time and fair work hours.



THE ALLNITE

WAGE THEFT: Undocumented Workers Have Little Recourse in this Injustice



By RIDA ALI, age 11

Wage theft is projected to cost workers more than \$50 billion a year, according to the nonprofit Economic Policy Institute. Wage theft happens when employers cheat their workers out of the money they’re owed for their services. Wage theft practices include failure to pay **overtime**, paying workers under minimum wage or not paying workers at all.

Undocumented workers often don’t pursue justice in their situation because of fear of deportation if attention is drawn to them. Another great difficulty they face is that many don’t speak English, making it hard to communicate with authorities.

A spring 2015 investigation by the NY State Labor Department of 29 New York City nail salons found 116 wage violations. One salon owner tried to justify his workers’ low wages. According to the *New York Times*, he said, “We run our business our own way to keep our small business surviving.”

Some efforts have been made to protect these workers. In California, employers will now be fined up to \$10,000 for retaliating against workers who report them, whether or not the worker is documented.



THE ALLNITE

Are Tipped Wages Fair for Workers?



By BRYANNA SANTOS, age 10

While the federal minimum wage is \$7.25, the wage for people who work for tips, such as restaurant servers, has been \$2.13 since 1991. One option restaurant owners are considering is to implement a ‘no-tipping policy.’ Instead, the **gratuity** will be included in menu prices and equally distributed among formerly tipped workers.

“We saw there was a fundamental **inequity** in our restaurants where the people who worked in the kitchen were paid about half as much as the people who worked with customers in front of the house,” Bob C. Donegan, co-owner and president of Ivar’s seafood restaurant in Seattle, WA, told the *New York Times*. The restaurant switched to a tip-included menu, raised prices by 21 percent and executed a no-tipping policy.

Some restaurant workers are against a no-tipping policy, preferring the chance to earn more from tips than they would from an hourly wage. Other tipped workers prefer to have a higher hourly wage and eliminate tipping altogether.

“It’s a little more secure,” Chelsea Krumpler, a waitress at Manos Nouveau in San Francisco, CA, told the *New York Times*. “Many waiters I know were skeptical of my \$25-an-hour wage and no tips. But in fact, I’m earning as much as before with no worries about slow nights.”

Supporters of a higher minimum wage in New York march in April 2015.





ELVERT BARNES

## Keystone XL Pipeline Rejected

KID REPORTER

By AMZAD ALI, age 12

In November 2015, the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline that was supposed to carry oil from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico was rejected by President Obama. This was a huge victory for environmentalists who campaigned against it for more than seven years. “[T]he tide is starting to turn,” environmental activist Bill McKibben told *Rolling Stone*. “The fossil fuel industry is just not going to have its way every time from now on like they have for so long.”



MOTORITO/FLICKR

## Germany Shows That Green Energy is Affordable

KID REPORTER

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 12

Germany is one of the leading countries in the production of electricity from renewable resources, and their investment is paying off. Households get loans to install solar panels and companies receive money from the government to build more energy efficient homes. Germans currently obtain 26 percent of their electricity from wind turbines and solar panels. This has resulted in lower household energy bills than the average household in Texas and less damage to the climate.

## Frankenfish for Sale!

KID REPORTER

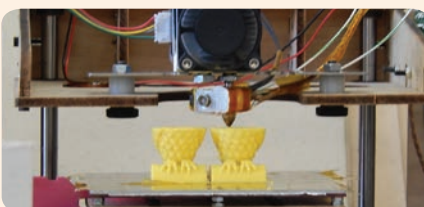


WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 12

On November 19, 2015, the U.S. Food

and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first ever genetically modified animal approved for human consumption. It is originally a salmon from the Atlantic Ocean that was engineered to grow faster with genes from two other fish. Many scientists are concerned about what could happen if the man-made fish were to enter the wild. This could be dangerous because they could disrupt an ecosystem and possibly outcompete other fish. Also, these fish do not have to be labeled in supermarkets as genetically engineered. Without labeling, it will be difficult for consumers to know which fish are genetically modified and which are not.



MICHAEL COGHLIN

## 3D Printers Can Print Bacterial Colonies

KID REPORTER

By BRYANNA SANTOS, age 10

3D printers can be used to print bacterial breeding colonies. These bacterial colonies help scientists understand how infections that are resistant to antibiotics spread. Scientists also aim to use embryonic stem cells, cells taken from fertilized human eggs, to print human organs for people who need organ transplants. 3D printing works much like an ordinary printer, but instead of printing ink in one flat sheet, a 3D printer releases material in layers to form a three-dimensional object.

# culture&activism

## Homeless Children Get a Share of the Fun

By SABAT ALI, age 9

KID REPORTER

Some nonprofits are helping homeless kids in a new way, looking beyond their basic needs for food and shelter to throw them birthday parties and provide other fun experiences.

More than 1.6 million children in the United States experience homelessness each year, according to the National Center on Family Homelessness. With so much attention being paid to their housing, clothes and nutritional needs, these kids have often missed the chance to enjoy childhood. Recently, a number of charity groups have tried to change that.

The Atlanta branch of the national nonprofit StandUp For Kids sponsors activities for homeless youth such as movies and picnics, and the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth in Minneapolis makes sure they have a place to stay for the holidays.

A group called The Birthday Party Project partners with shelters in places like Dallas, Detroit, San Francisco, Chicago and New York City. Kids at participating shelters get to celebrate their birthdays together with games, crafts, face painting, party hats, cake, presents and a fun theme.

A 12-year-old girl got her makeup done as a special treat for her birthday last November. Lara Gaither, executive



DAVID GOEHRING

Party-goers express their excitement for their friend's birthday.

director of the group, said, “Their reactions and excitement are very powerful.”

One child told *ABC News*: “I felt like a supermodel!”

“It might be in a shelter, but it was the best,” Micah Cooper, who celebrated his 11th birthday at a shelter in Dallas, told radio station WFAA.

So far, the group has hosted 1,350 birthdays for 11,500 kids with the help of 4,200 adult and child volunteers. “From board members to volunteers at parties,” said Gaither, “our birthday ‘enthusiasts’ are the heartbeat of what we do.”

## High School Football Dangers Turning Heads

By ALICE CHEKUNOVA, age 11

KID REPORTER

More than 1 million U.S. high school students play football. In this season alone, 11 have died. With much media focus on traumatic brain injury in the NFL, are the dangers facing high school players receiving the same attention? Many low-income students around the country base their college hopes on football scholarships, but the sport may put their health and safety at risk and scholarships themselves are very rare.

According to a Marist University poll, parents who are aware of the connection between head injury and brain damage are one-third less likely to let their children play. The rate varies from group to group; Americans without a college degree and those making less than \$50,000 are less aware of this danger.

To prevent further fatalities, schools around the country are taking extra precautions. Football players are required by governing bodies and states to wear full protection. The National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research (NCCSIR) has found that many high school football fatalities are due to heat illness worsened by pads and helmets. Some schools are using a handheld device called a **sling psychrometer** to monitor conditions on the field. The NCCSIR also recommends that players rest with their equipment removed, in shaded areas with good air circulation.

Steve Gleason, an advocate for people with **neurological illnesses** and a former football player, told [mmqb.si.com](http://mmqb.si.com), a website about the NFL, “[R]ecent



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Rye High School football player Kyle Ramalho rests and recovers after an injury during a game.

studies link head trauma as a contributing factor to **ALS**. If those studies end up being confirmed ... I was unknowingly put at higher risk.”

**Sling psychrometer:** A device that measures humidity, which can contribute to heat stroke.

**Neurological illnesses:** A group of illnesses that affect the brain, spinal cord or other nerves and can cause paralysis or muscle weakness, loss of mental control and sensation, and other symptoms.

**ALS:** Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, a progressive disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord.



# Meet IndyKids Kid Reporter, Justin Lamport



JUSTIN LAMPORT

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 12 

**Eleanor Hedges Duroy: What made you want to write for *IndyKids*?**

**Justin Lamport:** Before I wrote for *IndyKids*, I used to look at my dad's *New York Times* newspapers. After a while, I decided that I wanted to write something similar to what I read in the *Times*. When I found *IndyKids*, I immediately joined it.

**What inspires you to write?**

What inspires me to write are certain issues in the world that I care about. It is almost like a call of duty to start putting my thoughts and ideas about these issues on paper.

**Of the articles you've written for *IndyKids*, which is your favorite and why?**

Of the pieces I've written for *IndyKids*, my favorite article is "The Power of Sugar." It's my favorite because

I felt like I was making an important argument about how the sugar lobby has made it difficult for people to manage their sugar intake, leading to harmful health effects on the American population.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**

I mostly like to play soccer in my free time. Playing soccer runs in my family. My dad, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather were all great soccer players.

**If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?**

If I could go anywhere in the world, I would go to any country where soccer is a major sport. Unfortunately, it's not a big sport here. My favorite soccer club is Barcelona, so I'd love to visit Spain and watch a game there.

## Someday, you could be a Gun Control Advocate, like Leah Gunn Barrett

By AUDREN HEDGES DUROY, age 9 

**L**eah Gunn Barrett is the executive director of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV). Her nonprofit organization recently released a viral video in which real people expected to purchase a gun for protection, but left after learning the tragic history behind each weapon. The video went viral.

**Audren Hedges Duroy: What inspired you to become a gun control advocate?**

**Leah Gunn Barrett:** In 1997, my older brother, Greg, was shot and killed in his business in Tulsa, Oklahoma. That completely changed my life. I was living in London at the time, and was very upset to learn that the gun laws in America had been so lax since I moved away. When I returned to the United States, I decided to help prevent other tragedies from happening.

**What inspired you to create the fake gun shop?**

Our goal was to get Americans to think carefully about the decision to own a gun. Do guns really protect you or are they more likely to be used in a homicide or unintentional shooting?

**What other advocacy methods do you use?**

We have an educational program in several New York public schools, called reACTION. The program takes students to Albany each spring, where they advocate for laws that will keep guns out of the wrong hands and where they can tell their personal stories of how gun violence affects them.

**Do you have any advice for young people who want to become effective gun control advocates?**

Yes, you can volunteer at organizations like NYAGV, or start a club at your school. You should get to know your elected leaders and call and write to them to ask them to support gun control laws.



## How Misty Copeland Turned Hard Work into History

By EVANGELINE COMEAU-KIRSCHNER, age 10

**I**n June 2015, Misty Copeland was promoted to principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre in New York, but she wasn't like the average ballerina. For one thing, she had a much more visibly muscular body type. She's 5 feet 2 inches tall, very short for a ballerina. She was also the company's first female African-American principal dancer in its 75-year history.

Copeland started practicing ballet at the Boys and Girls Club in San Pedro, CA, when she was 13 years old, which is older than most ballerinas start. Her talent and passion eventually led to her roles in American Ballet Theatre productions such as *The Nutcracker*. She was always very hard-working, and at times even performed with injuries. For example, she overcame a vertebral fracture and a stress fracture in her left shin.

In the beginning of her career, Copeland was told she didn't "fit in," and that



she was only right for certain parts.

"It's a visual art form, so they're judging me on my physical appearance, and some of them just don't want to see brown skin on the stage," she told *New York* magazine.

"My backup plan was to out-dance everyone," wrote Copeland in her memoir, *Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina*, "to be so technically perfect and unbelievably lyrical in my movements that all anyone would be able to see was my talent."

Most importantly, Copeland has inspired many young girls of all races to follow their dreams.

Copeland said she would tell her younger self this: "You can do anything you want, even if you are being told negative things. Stay strong and find motivation."



KENT G. BECKER

Misty Copeland is the American Ballet Theatre's first female African-American principal dancer in 75 years.





## ORIGINAL DRAWING BY EMILIA HEMINGWAY, AGE 9

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## GETTING WILD WITH THE MARKHOR



By ELIAH TAPIA, age 10

The markhor, also referred to as the *Capra falconeri*, is a type of wild goat that is found in the Middle East. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the markhor was classified as **endangered** until 2015, when its status was changed to **near threatened** due to a population increase of 20 percent.

Most people know markhors because of their beautiful, twirled horns. Poachers hunt them for body parts including horns, tails and fur. However, the Save Our Species project, put into effect by the Wildlife Conservation Society, is developing a conservation program in Pakistan to help protect the markhor, its national animal.

### Did you know?

- These animals spend their lives in rocky terrain, caves and places with steep cliffs.
- Markhor horns are used in traditional medicines.
- The markhor has a record horn length of 60 inches.
- The markhor **forages** 8-12 hours a day.
- Female markhors can weigh up to 70-90 pounds.
- Male markhors can weigh 180-240 pounds.

### Glossary of terms:

**Forage:** To search for food.

**Endangered:** A species that is vulnerable to extinction.

**Near Threatened:** A species that may be considered vulnerable to extinction in the near future.



NEMO'S GREAT UNCLE/FLICKR

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Find key words from the January/February 2016 *IndyKids* issue!

NYAGV

GRATUITY

DAPA

MISTY

INEQUITY

GMO

OVERTIME

DEPORTATION

FORAGE

C	N	H	W	U	E	M	Y	E	B	R	U	F	Z	O
T	E	T	A	A	D	W	O	F	Q	I	K	Q	T	W
I	M	B	L	N	D	A	C	K	I	J	Y	V	R	V
V	J	Y	C	K	E	T	N	V	V	I	J	X	E	G
V	E	Q	H	U	P	C	X	W	G	G	V	N	H	R
Y	D	R	J	S	O	C	Q	S	N	A	Q	K	R	A
E	W	M	F	P	R	O	G	L	P	L	Y	S	I	T
E	E	G	I	Z	T	F	V	D	F	Z	M	N	Z	U
G	N	C	D	E	A	I	N	E	Q	U	I	T	Y	I
A	P	A	D	B	T	Z	T	J	R	Y	O	K	S	T
R	V	T	U	A	I	Y	B	R	C	T	S	M	J	Y
O	W	D	B	E	O	Q	K	C	D	S	I	B	G	N
F	I	P	C	M	N	Y	U	C	W	I	H	M	T	N
G	E	K	Y	Y	X	X	A	L	I	M	V	O	E	V
C	T	K	X	U	C	M	V	D	X	M	Q	R	R	R

## WHO AM I?

By AUDREN HEDGES DUROY, age 9



1. I was born in India in 1973 and grew up witnessing poverty around me.

2. I worked in the computer science field and have a Ph.D. in Economics.

3. I am a member of Socialist Alternative, and I am part of the Occupy Movement.

4. I am an elected Seattle, WA city council member.

5. I donate part of my salary to "Solidarity Fund" to help fund social justice movements.

6. I successfully advocated for higher minimum wages in Seattle.

7. I advocate for rent control in Seattle, better public transportation, improved parental leave and union rights.

8. I was arrested and released while protesting for an increase in airline workers' wages.



JOE MABEL

ANSWER: Kshama Sawant